

Stealth Fighter Jet Will Help Debut New VA Veterans Day Parade Route

World War II Bomber Sentimental Journey will flyover at 11:30 a.m. to make way for Stealth Fighter Jet Flyover at 11 a.m.

PHOENIX (October 24, 2005) Due to the light rail project, the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center has been working with the City of Phoenix to establish a new parade route for the VA Veterans Day Parade traditionally held on Veterans Day, November 11.

After public hearings and council approval, the new parade route will now follow the zigzag parade route. The VA Veterans Day Parade will stage at the 7th Street side of the hospital (instead of the Third Street side) and will head north on 7th Street from Montecito to Camelback; West on Camelback to Central Avenue and North on Central Avenue up to Montebello where the parade will destage at North Phoenix Baptist Church.

Since this will be the Phoenix parade on this new route, the VA Veterans Day Parade has garnered the F-117 Stealth Fighter Jet to help debut this new route.

The F-117A Stealth Nighthawk Bomber will be flown over the new City of Phoenix Parade route by pilots of the 49th Fighter Wing, Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico. The F-117A Nighthawk is the world's first operational aircraft designed to exploit low observable stealth technology.



Stealth is a technology that minimizes the aircraft's visibility to radar through a very sophisticated and unique design. The F-117 is a single-seat fighter aircraft designed to penetrate dense threat environments and attack high value targets with

pinpoint accuracy. With an air refueling capability, the F-117 supports worldwide commitments and adds to the deterrent strength of the U.S. armed forces.

The Stealth Fighter Jet flyover will take place at 11 a.m. on November 11 and will mark the official start of the VA Veterans Day Parade.

In addition to the Stealth, the World War II bomber Sentimental Journey will return for its traditional flyover for the parade. Due to the Stealth, the Sentimental Journey will flyover at approximately 11:30 a.m. The Sentimental Journey is a B-17 bomber that used to run bombing missions during World War II. It is operated and owned by the Commemorative Air Force at Falcon Field. Sentimental Journey has been a traditional part of the VA Veterans Day Parade since its inception in 1997.

This is the ninth annual VA Veterans Day Parade that is designed to commemorate and honor our nation's veterans so they will never be forgotten; to educate the community about the role and sacrifices of America's veterans in safeguarding this nation; and to build a patriotic spirit and appreciation of our military history in the greater Phoenix community.

A partnership between the City of Phoenix and the Carl T. Hayden Veterans Affairs Medical Center allows the two entities to create the VA Veterans Day Parade. The VA Veterans Day Parade has consistently grown in size and attendance and is now the fourth largest attended VA Veterans Day Parade in the country, following behind New York, San Francisco and Charleston, South Carolina.

The VA Veterans Day Parade is on Veterans Day at 11 a.m. This coincides with the signing of the Armistice to end World War I, which was conducted at the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

Established in 1926 Veterans Day was known as Armistice Day. Twelve years later in 1938 it became known as Veterans Day by Congressional action and has traditionally been a day to help celebrate the sacrifices of our nation's veterans and to honor them for their service from past to present.

The 2005 VA Veterans Day Parade theme is: **Serving At Home and Abroad, Honoring Our World War II veterans.** The VA Veterans Day Parade will include several World War II veterans as its Veterans Grand Marshals including a Navajo Code Talker, Pearl Harbor Veterans and Ex-Prisoners of War. The VA Veterans Day Parade will also honor Arizona's Congressional Medal of Honor (CMOH) Recipients Silvestre Herrera and Fred Ferguson.

There are more than 300,000 veterans in Maricopa County and the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center provides high quality health care to more than 65,000 of them.

The CTHVAMC is proud to join with the Department of Veterans Affairs in honoring veterans on Veterans Day.